

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.
K

Form no.
438



City Lexington

Address 28 Forest Street

Owner 1 Mr. Wood 2 Mr. Jackson

Present use 2 family dwelling

Present owner Peter Kelley

Description:

Year 1873

Source Minkman 7/12/1873
Mrs. Olson, 30 Forest St.

Style Italianate

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Built by Mr. Wood

Exterior wall fabric Cream clapboard, white trim

Outbuildings (describe) Matching barn
Bracketted overhang.

Other features Double door (glass top panel)
to right, bay window left. Brick foundation
Small porch extending from door to walk;
Bay window left side of house, small open
porch left rear, by back door.

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less 19161 ft.² Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 87'

Approximate distance of building from street

25'

6. Recorded by Anne Grady, Nancy S. Seasholes
Barbara C. Stewart;

Organization Lexington, Historical Commission
April, 1984

Date April 29, 1976;

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal | _____ | Conservation | _____ | Recreation | _____ |
| Agricultural | _____ | Education | _____ | Religion | _____ |
| Architectural | _____ | Exploration/ settlement | _____ | Science/ invention | _____ |
| The Arts | _____ | Industry | _____ | Social/ humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce | _____ | Military | _____ | Transportation | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Political | _____ | | |
| Community development | <u>x</u> | | | | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This house was built on speculation in 1873 by Richard D. Blinn, the owner of most of the land along the proposed Forest Street extension and Parker Street. Blinn was associated with the Lexington railroad, rising from a job as brakeman to president, and was a member of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1869 and 1874. He had bought the Parker-Forest Street extension land in 1870-1872, hoping to make a large profit by the sale of house lots, but went bankrupt in the Panic of 1873 and left Lexington.

By 1889 this house was apparently a rental property owned by George H. Jackson, a Lexington provision merchant who owned a great deal of property in this area, and continued to be rented through the turn of the century. The barn at the rear of the property is a replacement of the original one, which burned.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This is a well-preserved example of the side hall plan Italianate house. It possesses the standard features of the house type: bracket door hood, facade bay window, and paired brackets at the eaves. There are relatively few of these houses in Lexington and most are in this immediate area.

Gabled roof, end toward street. Pigeon roost returns, El on rear (from time of construction.) Chimney middle of roof ridge, brick.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 321. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Mulliken, Everett. "Some of My Recollections of the Houses in the Vicinity of the Common and the People Who Lived in Them." Typescript, Worthen Collection, Cary Memorial Library, Lexington, Massachusetts.

(see Continuation Sheet)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

438

Property Name: 28 Forest Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Worthen, Edwin B. "Notes made in 1941-42." Worthen Collection, Cary Memorial
Library, Lexington, Massachusetts.

1876 map

1889 map

1898 map

1906 map

1887 Directory

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
28 FOREST STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

K

438

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

On July 12, 1873 the *Lexington Minute-man* reported that “Mr. R.D. Blinn has raised the frame of one building on Forest Street and will follow it with another in the fall”. This would appear to refer to the two houses at 28 & 30 Forest Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Minute-Man, July 12, 1873.

Supplement prepared by:
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March 2009